

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04332 311247Z

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R 311050Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9259

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CDR USSAG NKP

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE ON LAOS AND U.S. MILITARY
PRESENCE IN THAILAND

REF: A) FBIS OKINAWA 301627Z MAY 74

B) FBIS BANGKOK 301042Z MAY 74

C) FBIS BANGKOK 301100Z MAY 74

D) FBIS BANGKOK 301162Z MAY 74

1. REFERENCE A FBIS TRANSCRIPTION REPORTS HANOI RADIO ENGLISH
LANGUAGE BROADCAST OF NOTE REPORTEDLY SENT BY DRV FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ALL COUNTRIES SIGNATORY TO 1962
GENEVA AGREEMENT ON LAOS. NOTE ALLEGES THAT USG AND THAILAND
"HAVE BEEN VIOLATING 1962 AGREEMENTS ON LAOS." IT SPECIFICALLY
CHARGES THAT MAINTENANCE OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND
AND USG USE OF THAI TERRITORY COMPRISE VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE
I(B) OF VIENTIANE 1973 AGREEMENT. NOTE CALLS UPON GENEVA 1962
SIGNATORIES "TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE" TO FORCE THE U.S. TO WITH-
DRAW MILITARY FORCES AND DISMANTLE ITS MILITARY BASES IN
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04332 311247Z

THAILAND.

2. REFS B AND C ARE TRANSCRIPTIONS OF STATEMENT BY LPF SPOKESMAN BROADCAST OVER RADIO PATHET LAO MAY 30. STATEMENT HAS AURA OF BEING CAREFULLY-DRAFTED, HIGH-LEVEL PATHET LAO VIEWPOINT AND IS ALSO OBVIOUSLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH EXPIRATION OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL PERIOD IN LAOS JUNE 4. PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IS EMPHASIS PLACED ON DEMANDS THAT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE BE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND.

3. REF D IS ADDITIONAL STRONG RADIO PATHET LAO BLAST AT THAILAND--WHICH INCLUDES, FOR FIRST TIME WE HAVE SEEN SUCH A FORMULATION, STATEMENT THAT "THE LAO ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO...DEAL BITTER AND HEAVY BLOWS TO THE ACTS COMMITTED BY THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THE THAI REACTIONARIES." HITHERTO, STANDARD FORMULATION HAS BEEN "LAO PATRIOTIC FORCES AND PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED IN PAST FEW DAYS A MARKED INCREASE IN INTENSITY AND FREQUENCY OF RADIO PATHET LAO ATTACKS ON U.S. PRESENCE IN THAILAND. OUR BELIEF IS THAT THIS NEW PROPAGANDA THEME IS INTENDED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM CLEAN IMAGE OF USG AND THAI COMPLIANCE WITH LAO AGREEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE ACHIEVED OVER PAST 16 MONTHS. THEME ALSO IMPLIES THAT COMMUNIST SIDE MAY BELIEVE IT HAS MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS TOWARD COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES IN LAOS AND IS NOW PROCEEDING TO FOCUS ENERGIES ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND BASES IN THAILAND.
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